important religious days for the Roman Catholics in a year, and it was hard that they should be compelled to attend courts on these days without being able to perform their religious ceremonies at the appointed hours. He added that the subject of supplying Roman Catholic Bibles to courts was brought up at the last session of the Assembly and that all the courts had not yet been provided with them.

Reply.—The obligation to attend service alone will not interfere with appearance in courts. There is no such exemption in British India. To lay down a general rule of the kind will seriously hamper the disposal of public business. Applications, however, for late attendance or temporary absence may be made to the courts in individual cases.

As regards the supply of Catholic Bibles, it is observed that all the Magistrates' courts have been already provided with them and since the last session of the Assembly, all civil courts have been also supplied with copies of these Bibles. If any court still remains to be supplied, it will be attended to.

92. Prevention of delay in the execution of decrees and the necessity for improving the method of execution now adopted.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay, B. A., (*Kottayam*) said that it was desirable that the District judges should convene a meeting of Munsiffs and, after discussing with them the difficulties in the practical working of the present High Court proceedings and circulars on the subject, suggest for the consideration of the High Court any improvements in them that might be deemed necessary.

Reply.—This is a peculiar mode of doing business which, I think, need not be suggested to the High Court. They will themselves see to this if found necessary.

93. Avoidance of delay in the grant of copies of records from courts.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (*Ettumanur*) suggested that for avoiding the delay experienced at present in this matter the number of copyists might be increased, and that, when original documents were presented in courts, the parties themselves might be given permission to produce copies of them.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eraniel*) also suggested the desirability

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of permitting others than court volunteers to prepare copies of documents for production in courts.

Reply.—As regards delay, the High Court have issued the necessary instructions. As for copies of records, the law itself prescribes that copies of certain documents might be produced by the parties. Copies of accounts, cadjan documents and translations of documents in foreign language, &c., might be produced by the parties themselves and the courts could examine them and return the originals. If the present rules require that copies in these cases have to be prepared by the court volunteers, it is hard and the High Court will be addressed to see whether the requisite relief could not be afford ed. On the other hand, where the original is asked to be immediately returned, a certified copy has to be insisted on and no relaxation of the rule can be made in such cases.

94. Refund of unpaid batta &c., to parties.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (*Ettumanur*) stated that batta to witnesses, &c., deposited in courts by parties were being now credited to Government on flimsy grounds, instead of being returned to parties in cases of non-payment, and suggested that the process peon himself might be asked to return them in case they were not expended by him for the purposes intended.

Reply.—The process peon cannot be entrusted with the responsibility of finding the party who deposited the money in court and refunding it to him in cases in which the amount is not paid to witnesses. An account of such sums is kept in all courts and the peon returns the unpaid balance to the court where the same is allowed to stand in the name of the party who deposited it, for a period of one year. If within this period the amount is not claimed, it is credited to Government after the publication of a formal notice. The present rules on the subject are unobjectionable.

95. Return of unspent balance of batta and mileage to witnesses on the receipt of parties or their vakils.

Mr. N. Kesavan Valiathan (*Kartigapalli*) said that in the notices now published in courts regarding unspent batta, &c., the names of the parties and other necessary particulars were not entered and this led to the parties not being able to find out and claim the

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